

UK: THE CONTEMPORARY AGE

During his second mandate, **Blair** committed a terrible mistake and his popularity decreased. In 2003, he followed the Americans in the Iraq War without the United Nations participation.

The Labour Prime Minister, Gordon **Brown** took a series of measures to contrast the 2008 economic and financial crisis, such as fiscal policies and tax cuts. However, the situation remained difficult.

In 2010 the Conservatives failed to achieve a majority and a hung parliament was formed with the Liberal Democrats. It was the first coalition government after the end of World War Two and David **Cameron** took measures to reduce public expenditure and revitalise the economy.

In the 2014 referendum, Scottish people voted to remain in the UK. Cameron resigned after the Referendum in June 2016, **Brexit**, when Britain chose to leave the European Union.

The new Conservative Prime Minister, Theresa **May**, had to face all the problems related to the exit of the UK from the European Union. New elections were held on 8th June 2017, but May did not get the majority in Parliament and she had to form a coalition with the Ulster Unionists.

USA: THE CONTEMPORARY AGE

On 11th September 2001, a **terrorist attack** of Al Qaeda destroyed the Twin Towers in New York. About 3,000 people were killed.

George W. **Bush** Jr. announced a War of Terror and started a campaign with the British and the support of the NATO against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in early October 2001.

In 2003, America declared war, the **Iraq War**, against Saddam Hussein who was thought to possess weapons of mass destruction.

Barack Obama, the first African American president, took office in January 2009. In 2009 he took steps to encourage private investments and in 2010 signed the Wall Street Reform Act to reform the financial system. His program included health care reform, education, social security, energy policy, investments in renewable energy and foreign policy. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009 and the title of his speech was "A Just and Lasting Peace". Obama ended his mandate on a grand scale with the Nuclear Deal with Iran (2015) to ensure a peaceful nuclear program and the end of the Cuban Embargo (2016).

After a very strong 2016 campaign, Republican **Donald Trump** became the new president of the USA. He took the country out of the Kyoto Environment Protocol and tried to destroy some of the reforms made by his predecessor.